ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An exhaust system for a motor vehicle having a variable displacement engine includes an exhaust valve assembly that is moveable between an open position and a position blocking at least some of the exhaust gases. The blocking of some the exhaust gases increases backpressure that reflects sound waves. The reflection of sound waves provides for the conditioning of noises eminating from the exhaust system. The exhaust valve assembly utilizes an electric actuator. The exhaust valve assembly includes heat insulation features for isolating the electric actuator from heat radiating from the exhaust pipe.

N:\Clients\MERITOR\IP01968\PATENT\Patent application 60,130-1968.doc